

'**The Birds of Australia.**'¹—Volume five of Mr. Mathews' great work is to be issued in four instead of three parts as previously announced and the second of these is before us. It continues the treatment of the Raptores covering the Kites, part of the Falcons and a few other species. The same lengthy discussion of nomenclature characterizes this number, which has figured in its predecessors.

The genus *Falco* as presented in the A. O. U. Check-List seems to Mr. Mathews to be a bad case of "lumping" and while he would admit that *Rhynchodon* is perhaps a subgenus, he claims that *Hierofalco*, *Tinnunculus* and *Cerchneis* are perfectly good genera.

We note *Haliastur sphenurus sarasini*, subsp. nov. (p. 169), New Caledonia, *Lophastur subcristatus kempi*, subsp. nov. (p. 220), Cape York, Australia; and *Falco longipennis samueli*, nom. nov. (p. 232) for *F. melanotus* White and Mellor, Flinders Island, Australia; as new names.—W. S.

Cassinia, 1915.²—The proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for 1915 show a continuation of the remarkable vitality that characterizes this organization. An average attendance of 24 at the 16 meetings held during the year is reported, and no fewer than 53 observers submitted migration records. Upon the material contained in these reports is based Dr. Stone's annual résumé of the spring migration. That of 1915 was characterized by abnormally early arrival of species coming in April or earlier and irregular occurrence of the later migrants. Dr. Stone contributes also another of the series of biographies he has published in 'Cassinia,' the present being that of Titian Peale. Other articles include 'Nesting birds of Pocono Lake,' with excellent illustrations of the nests of 2 species, of Empidonax, by J. Fletcher Street; 'Days with the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and the Prothonotary Warbler' by Geo. H. Stuart 3rd, in which no locality is cited, a protective measure no doubt, yet even a county record would have added to the scientific value of the article; 'Eggs and Nestling Destruction' by Julian K. Potter, showing an average loss of 40 per cent, large yet less than some other studies have brought out; and 'Mortality among birds at Philadelphia, May 21-22, 1915,' by Delos E. Culver, an account of migrants striking the City Hall. This issue of 'Cassinia' contains also a bibliography of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware ornithology for 1915, and a list of officers and members of the D. V. O. C.—W. L. M.

Bangs on New American Birds.³—A recent study of the Gallinules of America convinces Mr. Bangs that Hartert's view that they are best re-

¹ The Birds of Australia. By Gregory M. Mathews. Vol. V, Part II. London. February 29, 1916.

² Proceedings of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, 19, 1915 (March, 1916). 72 pp., 2 pls.

³ The American Forms of *Gallinula chloropus* (Linn.). By Outram Bangs. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. V, pp. 93-99. May 17, 1915.

garded as subspecies of the Old World *Gallinula chloropus* is correct. Besides *G. c. galeata* here restricted to southeastern South America, he recognizes four other races *G. c. garmani* Allen, from the Andes; *G. c. cercheris* Bangs, from the Lesser Antilles; and two here described as new *G. c. pauxilla* (p. 96), Rio Cauca, western Colombia; and *G. c. cachinnans* (p. 96) type from De Soto Co., Florida, for the North American bird.

In another paper¹ the smaller Mockingbird of the northern Bahamas is separated as *Mimus polyglottos delenificus*, type locality Andros Island; and in conjunction with Mr. John E. Thayer² the Song Sparrow of Nova Scotia is described as *Melospiza melodia acadica* (p. 67), type locality Wolfville.—W. S.

Swarth on the Pacific Coast Races of Bewick's Wren.³—From an examination of 597 skins, nine races are recognized.

Two other forms are "pointed out and their characteristics described, but no names affixed," because "it is impossible to indicate more than obscure average distinctions" and because the "extreme variability of even the most strongly marked of the described forms militates against" their recognition. The author fears possible criticism of his action but we think it will meet with very general endorsement.

Mr. Swarth's study is a very painstaking one, abounding in minute data, and will be a great help to those who wish to name their specimens, for to many who do not have a series of 500 skins for comparison this is by no means an easy task. There are some helpful suggestions to the A. O. U. Committee as to defining of the ranges of *spilurus* and *charienturus* in view of their refusal to recognize the poorly defined race *drymæcus*.—W. S.

Murphy and Harper on New Diving Petrels.⁴—In their studies of the family Pelecanoididæ Messrs. Murphy and Harper have found two unnamed forms of the curious little Diving Petrels which so closely parallel in size and appearance the Murrelets of the northern hemisphere. These are named in the present paper, *Pelecanoides urinatrix chathamensis* (p. 65), Chatham Islands; and *P. georgica* (p. 66) South Georgia Island.—W. S.

Chapin on the Pennant-Winged Nightjar.⁵—During his sojourn in the great Equatorial forest of Central Africa, Mr. Chapin secured

¹ The Smaller Mockingbird of the Northern Bahamas. By Outram Bangs. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. VI, p. 23. March 29, 1916.

² A New Song Sparrow from Nova Scotia. By John E. Thayer and Outram Bangs. Proc. N. E. Zool. Club, Vol. V, pp. 67-68. May 23, 1914.

³ The Pacific Coast Races of the Bewick Wren. By Harry S. Swarth. Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., Vol. VI, No. 4, pp. 53-85, pl. 2. May 8, 1916.

⁴ Two New Diving Petrels. By Robert Cushman Murphy and Francis Harper. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., XXXV, pp. 65-67. April 1, 1916.

⁵ The Pennant-winged Nightjar and its Migration. By James P. Chapin. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XXXV, pp. 73-81. Scientific Results of the Congo Expedition. Ornithology, No. 3. April 12, 1916.